

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir as part of the ongoing process of review of the Export & Import Policy, changes in the Import Policy of a few items have recently been made as per details indicated in Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 23 (RE-96) dated 10.2.1997, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. As the notification has been recently issued, it would be difficult to make any assessment regarding annual duty likely to be earned by Government on account of import of these items or their impact on indigenous industry

Decline in Production and Export of Cashew

20. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any assistance to the cashew producers in Kerala to boost Cashew export;

(b) if so, the total subsidy provided to cultivate cashew crops in Kerala during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any decline in exports of cashew products;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken to boost exports during 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development Programme on Cashew, Rs. 3.728 crores have been released during the last three years for activities related to planting; re-planting/rejuvenation; adoption of comprehensive production technology and plant protection.

(c) and (d) The exports of cashew during the last three years were as under:

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	1045.31
1994-95	1241.97
1995-96	1231.07
1996-97	932.22
(April-Nov.)	
1995-96	818.20
(April-Nov.)	

There was a marginal decline in export of cashew during 1995-96 due to sluggish international market and stiff competition faced from our overseas competitors. However, during the current year the export of cashew has shown an upward trend.

(e) Measures taken to enhance exports of cashew include: participation in international fairs abroad; arranging

Buyer-Seller Meets, publicity campaigns in the overseas markets and dissemination of information on quality requirements of the overseas buyers to Indian exporters.

Fire in Jharia Coalfield

21. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in regard to meet the hazard of underground fire in the Jharia Coal belt of Bihar;

(b) the expenditure incurred on fire-fighting in this belt during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of fire-spots extinguished during the last three years; and

(d) the number of fire-spots still emitting fire and smoke?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Out of 70 fires identified in Jharia coalfield of Bihar at the time of nationalisation of coking coal mines in 1972, 10 fires have been completely extinguished. The remaining fires are by and large, under control.

With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia coalfield fires, a detailed diagnostic study was undertaken under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project with World Bank Assistance. The study has been completed and report submitted recently.

(b) Year-wise expenditure on fire fighting including expenditure on the diagnostic study during the last three years has been as under:

Year	(Figures in crores) Total expenditure
1993-94	1.79
1994-95	6.02
1995-96	14.36

(c) Five fires in Jharia coalfield were extinguished during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96.

(d) Fire though under control still exists in 60 locations.

Production of Tea

22. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tea gardens in the districts of North Dinajpur, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling of West Bengal; and

(b) the total gardens of tea being produced by the authorised and un-authorised tea gardens in above districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and

(b) Required information in respect of tea estates registered with the tea Board is as follows:

S.No.	Plantation Distt.	No. of tea Estates (*)	Production * (in million kgs.)
1.	North Dinajpur	17	1.02
2.	Coochbehar	01	0.44
3.	Dooars (including Jalpaiguri)	167	127.55
4.	Darjeeling	88	11.29

* Estimated for the year 1996.

Provision of Loan to Textile Industry

23. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank has instructed financial institutions and bank to provide loans to cotton textile mills for making payments towards voluntary retirement scheme aimed at rationalisation of workforce and modernisation of the industry; and

(b) if so, the details of procedure followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial Institutions are examining the issue and have yet to decide on the implementation of these instructions.

[Translation]

SBI Jabalpur

24. SHRI DADA BABU RAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of State Bank of India, Jabalpur staged a demonstration in respect of their various demands; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that workmen employees resorted to demonstrations during lunch hour at Jabalpur for few days in January, 1997 in respect of various demands. The demands, *inter alia*, related to various service conditions of the workmen employees. However, the agitation has been withdrawn following a settlement with the staff federation of the bank.

Scheduled Tribes in PSUs

25. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister or INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled Tribe candidates recruited in the Public Sector Undertakings in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last two years till date; and

(b) the scheme formulated for the recruitment of such persons in each Public Sector Undertaking during the year 1997-98 and the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Banking Companies/Banks

26. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private banking companies/banks functioning in the country;

(b) the number of the private banking companies/banks which have submitted the proposals for making investment or setting up private sector banks in India, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to give permission and recognition to such banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the guidelines issued by the RBI to regulate the working of these banks; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to vigil on these banks ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are 37 private sector banks incorporated in India functioning in the country

(b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not received any proposal from private banking companies/banks for making investment or setting up of private sector banks in India.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

U.P. Spinning Mills

27. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :
SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spinning mills in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Uttranchal area are not functioning properly and have been declared sick; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for revival of those mills and to save the interests of the workers of those mills?